



*Renton  
Municipal  
Arts  
Commission*

## RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2011  
4:30 pm

Renton City Hall  
Conferencing Center (7<sup>th</sup> Floor)

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Municipal Arts Commissioners Present: Patricia Pepper, Sarah Eldridge, Jerri Everett, Peter Hartley, Doug Kyes, Fred Lund, Britt McKenzie and Denise Zullig

Municipal Arts Commissioners Absent: Wesley Van Doren

City Staff Present: Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community & Economic Development  
Vincent Orduna, Cultural Arts Coordinator  
Vivienne Lietz, Administrative Secretary, Community & Economic Development

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Commission Vice Chair Britt McKenzie called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

**Guest Speaker:** Benson Shaw, Artist for Rainier Ave Project, gave an update on the project. He's been working with the City and KPG, the design consultant for the project. He showed pictures of the design in the current stage. Details such as the number of globes to be installed, the size and the curve can be adjusted. Benson noted existing walk lights and other vertical poles may block the artwork a little. The Rainier corridor project will pay for installing the two walls and the cost of the poles. The Arts Commission discussed the size and costs of the globes and decided on the larger diameter. The color choices were discussed. Benson mentioned that the metaphor of water with the blue color was why he original chose the color. The Commissioners agreed that it should remain blue but to add some contrasting colors. Benson will use vapor proof fixtures which are weather proof and the globes can be installed afterwards. The design could be repeated on the other side of the street if there is enough money in the budget. Benson could work with KPG and try to connect his mosaic to the "river" concept KPG is using. Optical activity gets us the "WOW!" factor the Commissioners requested.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** COMMISSIONER BRITT MCKENZIE ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. PETER HARTLEY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MARCH MINUTES, SECONDED BY SARAH ELDRIDGE. COMMISSIONERS CONCURED, MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC ART PIECE OF THE MONTH:** Jennifer Davis Hayes gave clues. The artist was born in Russia in 1891 and moved to Seattle 50 years ago. His Christmas card designs turned into a full time business. He became an art teacher. The artist is Jacob Elshin and he painted "Miners at Work" which is in the Renton Highlands library.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Commissioner Lund distributed mail highlighting local art events.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Local Arts Agency:** Jennifer attended the 4Culture LAA meeting in March. The Seattle Arts Commission is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Renton is actually an older commission. Seattle was the first to do 1% for Art in 1974. There is less money coming in now and they are looking at spending more money on temporary art as it would have less maintenance and cost in the long term. King County will be replacing small span bridges in the next 10 years or so. They are working to create unique designs for the bridges rather than specific art on each bridge. Education and outreach are very important to the general public and they are trying to do more with interpretive signage and Google maps. 4Culture is also working with the Rapid Ride buses to program art. Renton will have a RapidRide line starting in 2013 that runs through the City on Rainier Ave. as part of this project and we should coordinate with 4Culture to learn more about the art selected. Fred noted they are also doing art in windows. Denise reminded the commission that it was an option on the Logan Ave project to work on the sign at Logan & 6<sup>th</sup>. The next LAA meeting is May 26.

The bill to provide 4Culture funding did not make it out of the Ways & Means committee but there is hope that something still can be accomplished.

**ACTION ITEM LIST:**

**Build Awareness:** The meeting was cancelled and will be scheduled.

**Galvanizing Projects:** Denise Zullig and Jennifer Davis Hayes will meet with Peggy Weiss. There was an interesting report about the effects of light on the salmon which will be emailed to the Commission. This is currently in research mode and later we will look toward funding.

**Advocate for policies:** No progress to date.

**Performing Arts:** The group has met twice. Ideas discussed included better coordination of marketing and collaborative programming. Another meeting is scheduled for May to help develop next steps.

**Art Center:** The group is ready to move forward. Denise found an art center business plan that the group will explore. Pat Pepper suggested they need to be a not-for-profit organization to begin fundraising. The Renton Community Foundation is willing to be an umbrella for us to do that. They have a fee structure for the different levels of services they provide. There are many benefits to taking this route, assistance with fundraising and more. The committee will work to develop a business plan.

Brian Derdowski, previously a King County City Council member, is a land use consultant. He has experience in community development and how to bring people together for a common cause. Pat has asked him if he would be willing to come and chat with the Master Plan committee leads for \$200 and she is recommending we bring him to Renton.

The lead meeting ended up being most of the commissioners and so the next meeting should include all commissioners. **PAT PEPPER MADE A MOTION TO INVEST \$200 TO HIRE BRIAN DERDOWSKI TO HELP US FIGURE OUT HOW TO MOBILIZE THE RENTON ARTS AND CULTURE MASTER PLAN. DOUG KYES SECONDED. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTIONED CARRIED.** The Commission will work with Jennifer to develop a scope and to determine the next steps. The next master plan meeting will be April 20. Peter Hartley would like to focus on the Arts Center as this is a major interest for him, as well

as Resources which he feels is a critical area to be developed.. He would like to pass the lead of the Performing Arts Committee over to another member. VJ Orduna is willing to be a co-lead of the committee if allowed. It was discussed at the lead meeting that Build Awareness and Advocating for Policies are part of each aspect and could be incorporated as a support for the other three groups. The lead of Build Awareness and Advocating for Policies could work with the other committees as needed. One goal of the Performing Arts Committee is to bring the local performing arts groups together (performers, presenters, venues, etc.) and coordinate our activities in certain areas such as programming and marketing. Everybody at the volunteer meetings agreed that marketing is extremely important. This was also identified by the master plan.

**Commissioner Recruitment:** Interviews are tomorrow at 4:15 p.m., interview panelists will convene at 3:45 p.m.

**Commission Projects:** Carco Theatre Lobby Display – Cass Nevada didn't have enough art so they coordinated with David Shenk to leave some of his art up to fill the space. We will update the application to request that the artist fill the gallery space.

**Library architecture firm selection and design team.** Denise sat on the library architecture interview panel. Three architects for Downtown and three for the Highlands were interviewed. They were pleased that the Arts Commission was represented at the table and was able to ask how public art could be incorporated into the design. Fred Lund asked about the Renton art currently displayed in the libraries and Jennifer explained that both Alex Pietsch and Peter Renner are in the loop and if we continue to loan the art in the new libraries there would be a specific area designated. The architects were selected on experience, presentation, community involvement and listening skills. They were looking for openness in the design and integrating public art was key. The architect selected for the Highlands have already visited Renton six times already and had photos of Renton's public art in their slide show. Their level of communication was the best. The Arts Commission will hold a seat on the design team of the libraries, if anyone is interested let us know.

**Fred Meyer Honoring Pole:** There will be a meeting with Fred Meyer, the carver, the representative from the Duwamish Tribe and Arts Commission representatives on April 12. The goal is to have the pole complete by the High School celebration. Fred Meyer staff are very excited and are being very accommodating.

**Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan:** A Visioning workshop was held last week. They did an interactive slide show followed by group discussions. There is an interactive map on their website where you can add input of your vision and interests for this plan. There is a lot of community support for community gardens.

**Combat Paper:** April 27 – May 25. Two workshops scheduled at the Compass Veterans Center. There will be a 3-day family workshop followed by a 3-day singles workshop. The VFW will provide food for all six days. After the workshops, art will be hung in Luther's Table and Liberty Café. We need to work on a press release. Peter is still looking for a place where they could stay for the whole time, if anyone has suggestions please let him know.

**SIFF / Renton FilmFrenzy:** The SIFF-Renton Preview FilmWalk is May 11, at 7 pm starting at the Whistle Stop Ale House. We are planning a SIFF-Renton volunteer meeting, April 30 at 10am. [Editor's Note: The Volunteer Orientation will be held on May 18, 6:30 pm at Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center.] There is a link on the SIFF website to join the Renton volunteer team.

**Art Show:** Britt will coordinate a date for collecting the artwork from Olympia.

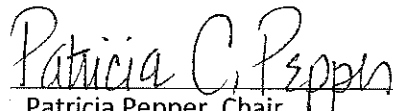
**Commission Budget:** Restoration of the Arts project is working on solidifying a location in Renton to perform. New expenses this month include the purchase of gallery lights for Carco Theatre lobby and the Arts Commission posters for the City Center Parking Garage.

**1% for Arts:** Logan Avenue Art work has been installed. The dedication will probably be in May. There was a cost issue, the concrete installation was not fully accounted for but everything was worked out. Evelyn suggested we draft an MOU to clarify each party's responsibilities in the future.

**New Business:** Renton River Days booth: Options are Friday only or Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the parade. Last year it was difficult to get commissioners to cover the booth so we need to decide if we can do all three days. Wesley volunteered to do some design aspects but is out of town during the event. The Parade is 10:00 a.m.-noon, staging begins around 8:00 a.m. Registration is still open. Commissioners please think about it and plan to vote by Thursday, April 21. The booth location is important.

**Arts Education:** The Arts Commission received a request to pass a resolution or proclamation for Arts Education Month in May. **PETER HARTLEY MOTIONED FOR THE ARTS COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY MAKE A PROCLAMATION AND ENDORSE ARTS EDUCATION MONTH. SECONDED BY DENIZE ZULLIG. COMMISSIONERS CONCURED, MOTION CARRIED.** Arts Commission will be informed of the date of the proclamation and are encouraged to attend.

**Adjournment:** The April 5, 2011, meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 3, 2011, at 4:30 pm.

  
Patricia Pepper, Chair